

1 Samuel 22:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.

Analysis

And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.

Doeg's report adds a detail not mentioned in chapter 21—that Ahimelech 'enquired of the LORD' for David. The Hebrew 'sha'al' (enquired/asked) suggests consultation through priestly means, likely the Urim and Thummim. Whether this actually occurred or Doeg embellished to strengthen his accusation remains debated. The threefold assistance—divine guidance, food, and weapon—made Ahimelech appear thoroughly complicit in David's escape. Doeg's testimony would provide Saul legal grounds for his murderous response. The factual elements (food and sword) mixed with possible exaggeration demonstrate how truth can be weaponized when stripped of context and motive.

Historical Context

Priestly inquiry through the ephod containing Urim and Thummim was the authorized means of seeking divine guidance. If Ahimelech did inquire for David, he may have been unaware of the conflict between David and Saul, acting in his normal priestly capacity.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How can accurate facts presented without context become instruments of injustice?
2. What responsibility do we bear for how our true but incomplete reports might be used?

Interlinear Text

וַיְשָׁאַל	לוֹ	בְּרִיתְהָ	אֶצְדִּיקָה	נָתַן	לֹא
And he enquired	H0	of the LORD	him victuals	and gave	H0
	H7592	H3068	H6720	H5414	H853
him the sword	of Goliath	the Philistine	and gave		
	H2119	H1555	H6430	H5414	H0

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 27:21 (Word): And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

1 Samuel 23:2 (References Lord): Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

1 Samuel 30:8 (References Lord): And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

1 Samuel 23:4 (References Lord): Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

